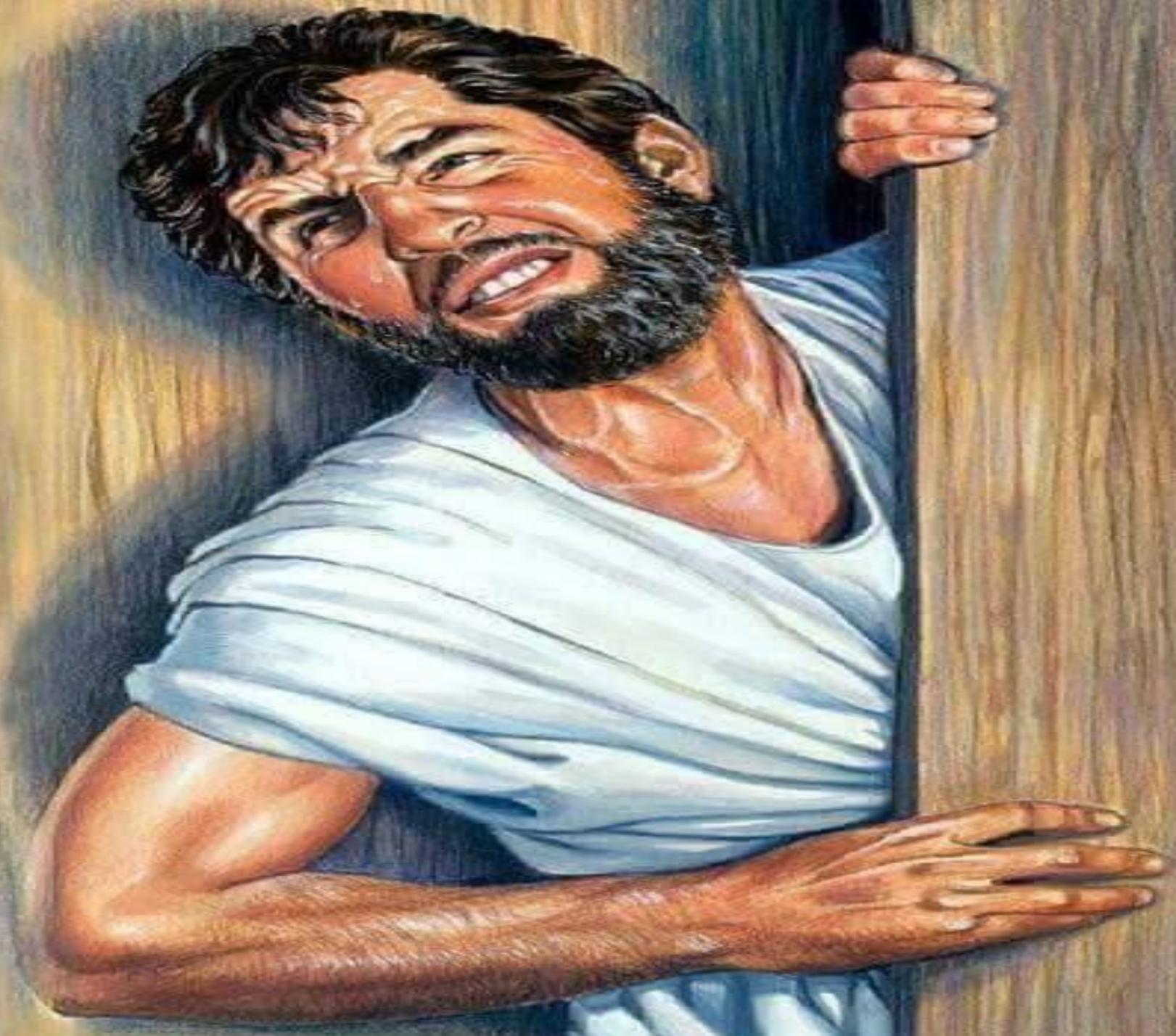


The **STRUGGLE** is Real

Luke 13:22-30

“Strive to enter...”

- *“Make every effort...”* - NIV
- *“Work hard...”* - NLT
- *“Do all you can...”* - CEV
- *“Do your best...”* - Good News Translation
- *“Keep on struggling...”* - ISV
- *“Exert every effort...”* - NET Bible
- *“Try hard...”* - GOD'S WORD® Translation
- *“Strain every nerve to force your way in...”* - Weymouth N.T.



A Journey With Purpose

22 And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.

- **Mid-point of His final trip to Jerusalem**

- *“When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem” (Lk. 9:51)*

- *“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished” (Lk. 18:31)*

- **Teaching as He went**

A Clarifying Question

23 And someone said to Him, “Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?” And He said to them,

- A question resulting from Jesus’ teaching
 - *“the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* (Mt. 7:14)
 - *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”* (Mt. 22:14)
 - “Then who can be saved?” (Mk. 10:26)
 - Perhaps thought all *physical Israel* would be saved
- **“Few” is not God’s desire** – 2 Pet. 3:9, 1 Tim. 2:3-4
- **Result of man’s unwillingness to obey** – Lk. 13:34

A Challenging Answer

24 • **Strive** to enter through the **narrow** door; for **many**, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

- **Strive-to struggle, like in an intense athletic contest or warfare**
 - “*Fight*” (Jn. 18:36), “*competes in the games*” (1 Cor. 9:25)
 - “I have *fought* the good fight...” (2 Tim. 4:7)
 - Requires careful, attentive maneuvering; entry isn’t easy or effortless
- **“Many”**
 - Will not be able to enter
 - Will not be prepared
 - Will not strive

A Limited Opportunity

25 **Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’**

- **When the door closes, it will be too late to enter**
 - *“Seek the LORD while He may be found”* (Isa. 55:6)
 - *“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS”* (Heb. 3:15)
- **Now... He’s their “Lord”**
 - But now, it’s too late...
 - Heb. 9:27-28

A Futile Plea

26 **Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’**

- ***“We ate and drank in Your presence”***
 - But did you commune with Me?
- ***“You taught in our streets”***
 - But did you accept my instruction?
- **They did not share real fellowship or receive His teaching**
- **They had some association... some knowledge, familiarity**
 - We were in the pews, we sat through bible classes and sermons...
 - But is your **heart** standing outside the door?

A Chilling Sentence

27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; depart from Me, all you evildoers.'

- **The “many”- those He does not “know”**
 - *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”* (Matt. 7:21)
 - They didn't serve Him as Master while they had time
- **The Lord “knows” the “few” who are His**
 - *“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”* (2 Tim. 2:19)

A Tragic Result

28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

- **Eternally tormented**
- **Eternally excluded from the presence of God**
- **Eternally knowing the door had been open to you**

A Wasted Opportunity

29 And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. 30 And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”

- **Eternally knowing others will sit at His table**
- **Even others who didn't have the advantages you had**

A Challenging Question

Few will be saved.

You can be one of the few.

Strain every nerve to force your way in.

The struggle is real.

Are **you willing to strive?**

